

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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EXDIS '

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TC, KU, BA, QA, MU, US, XF

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON ARAB-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: ABU DHABI 0169 (NOTAL)

1. IN UPCOMING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI, AMBASSADOR MAY DRAW ON PARAGRAPHS 2 THROUGH 4 BELOW IN DESCRIBING STATE-OF-PLAY IN ARAB-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS.

2. CURRENT US EFFORT IS TO LAUNCH SECOND ROUND OF ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WOULD INVOLVE FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS AND FURTHER STEPS TOWARD JUST AND LASTING PEACE ENVISIONED IN UNSC RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE IS TO HELP NEGOTIATING PARTIES REACH UNDERSTANDING ON DIMENSIONS AND MAIN ELEMENTS IN POSSIBLE AGREEMENT SO THAT DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN IN NEAR FUTURE. CONSULTATIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE EARLY

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DECEMBER HAVE BEEN INTENSIVE. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON HAS

VISITED WASHINGTON TWICE, AND WE HAVE BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE ARAB NEGOTIATING PARTIES THROUGH OUR AMBASSADORS.

3. OUR RECENT TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON WERE FRANK AND, WE BELIEVE, USEFUL IN MOVING TOWARD A CON-

CEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR NEXT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND IN MOVING CLOSER TO AGREEMENT ON THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PROCEED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH OFFERS THE BEST HOPE OF PROGRESS IN THE SHORT TERM. WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AT A TIME WHEN CAREFUL PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN LAID. IT REMAINS OUR JUDGMENT, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO TAKE ANOTHER LESS AMBITIOUS STEP NOW WHICH CAN MAINTAIN MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE. FROM OUR CONSULTATIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS TOWARD SUCH A STEP IS BEING MADE. A FURTHER STEP NOW HAS ADVANTAGES OF STRENGTHENING VIEW IN AREA THAT PEACE IS POSSIBLE AND OF BEING POLITICALLY MANAGEABLE ON ALL SIDES. HOPE IS THAT EACH INTERIM STEP MAKES NEXT STEP MORE POSSIBLE.

4. PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT CONCERNING URGENCY OF TAKING ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS PEACE, AND ARE CONVINCED THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED REMAIN COMMITTED TO SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND AVOIDANCE OF RENEWED HOSTILITIES. THEY REMAIN DETERMINED THAT US SHOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE.

5. FYI: IF YOU ARE ASKED ABOUT WHETHER AN EGYPT-ISRAEL AGREEMENT IS INTENDED TO PRECEDE ISRAEL-SYRIA AGREEMENT OR OTHER SIMILAR QUESTION, YOU SHOULD TAKE FOLLOWING LINE: OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO PROMOTE ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE RECOGNIZE FULLY THAT PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE MUST INCLUDE ALL OF THE KEY GOVERNMENTS. EXACT TIMING AND CONDUCT OF EACH NEGOTIATION MUST BE DECIDED BY NEGOTIATING PARTIES IN CONTEXT OF WHAT APPROACH MOST

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LIKELY TO BE EFFECTIVE. YOU SHOULD AVOID ANY JUDGMENT ON LIKELY OUTCOME PRESENT TALKS.

6. IF YOU ARE ASKED ABOUT ROLE OF PLO IN NEGOTIATIONS, YOU SHOULD SAY US CONTINUES TO RECOGNIZE THAT LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF PALESTINIANS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT, BUT FOR PRESENT ISRAEL REFUSES TO NEGOTIATE WITH PLO AND PLO HAS NOT STATED ITS

READINESS TO NEGOTIATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL. THUS FOR THE
MOMENT US CONCENTRATING ON NEGOTIATIONS THAT OFFER MOST
IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS. END FYI.

7. INFO ADDRESSEES MAY ALSO, AT THEIR DISCRETION, MAKE
USE OF PARAGRAPHS 2 THROUGH 4 ABOVE IN BRIEFING FOREIGN
MINISTERS, PRIME MINISTERS, OR RULERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE
HOST GOVERNMENTS. KISSINGER

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